

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6978

BILL NUMBER: SB 222

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 24, 2009

BILL AMENDED: Feb 19, 2009

SUBJECT: Killing a Domestic Animal.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Arnold

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. L. Lawson

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
☐ **FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill makes killing a domestic animal, a Class D felony, for a person to knowingly or intentionally kill a domestic animal without the consent of the owner of the domestic animal. It provides certain defenses to killing a domestic animal, including if the animal was killed to protect a person or property.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) There are no data available to indicate how many people may be convicted of killing a domestic animal, a Class D felony.

A Class D felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from 6 months to 3 years or reduction to Class A misdemeanor. The average expenditure to house an adult offender was \$20,287 in FY 2008. (This does not include the cost of new construction.) If offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the marginal cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$1,825 annually, or \$5 daily, per prisoner. The estimated average cost of housing a juvenile in a state juvenile facility was \$69,223. The average length of stay in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities for all Class D felony offenders is approximately 10 months.

Background— Under current law, it is a Class D felony to knowingly kill a vertebrate animal with the intent to threaten, intimidate, coerce, harass or terrorize a family or household member.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class

D felony is \$10,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund.

Since cases are filed in a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 criminal costs fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. In addition, some or all of the document storage fee (\$2), automated record keeping fee (\$7), judicial salaries fee (\$18), public defense administration fee (\$3), court administration fee (\$5), judicial insurance adjustment fee (\$1), and the DNA sample processing fee (\$1) are deposited into the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: If more defendants are detained in county jails prior to their court hearings, local expenditures for jail operations may increase. The average cost per day is approximately \$44.

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 criminal costs fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of the criminal costs fee. In addition, several additional fees may be collected at the discretion of the judge and depending upon the particular type of criminal case.

State Agencies Affected: DOC.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Indiana Sheriffs' Association; DOC.

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